

MRS. JANE STANFORD DIES AT MOANA HOTEL

Told Mrs. Henry Highton She Left San Francisco Because of Attempt Made There on Her Life.



JANE L. STANFORD.

Mrs. Jane L. Stanford died at the Moana Hotel at 11:40 o'clock last night under circumstances that point very strongly to poisoning.

(From Wednesday's Advertiser)

The story of her death, as it is told, is a most terrible one. Mrs. Stanford arrived in Honolulu on the last Korea, accompanied by her maid and her secretary, and went at once to the Moana, announcing that she had come here to rest for a few weeks. It developed, last night, that there may have been a darker reason.

She seemed, however, very cheerful and received the many friends who called on her in that spirit, although to one at least of the more intimate ones she threw aside her cheerfulness and spoke of the fears that beset her.

Yesterday Mrs. Stanford went on a drive to the Pali, and down into Koolau, where the party had a picnic dinner. Mrs. Stanford ate very heartily, and seemed to enjoy every moment of the drive.

The party returned to the Moana hotel, and at dinner time Mrs. Stanford went into the dining room. She did not remain more than three minutes, but made no complaint of feeling ill. In fact, she said that she felt remarkably well. It was supposed, however, that she had eaten so heartily at the picnic that she did not care for dinner.

Leaving the dining room, Mrs. Stanford sat on the lanai talking very cheerfully until bed time. At a little after ten o'clock, although this is not very clear, she went to her room on the second floor of the hotel, and retired.

At 11 o'clock a guest in an adjoining room heard her groaning, and going into her room found her lying on the floor, moaning as if in pain.

"I have been poisoned!" she gasped. She had evidently been taken violently ill in bed and, stirring to get up to summon help, had fallen to the floor and been unable to rise. At once Dr. Humphris was summoned, and to him Mrs. Stanford repeated:

"I have been poisoned. Get a stomach pump at once." Dr. Humphris called Drs. Day and Murray to his assistance, and although all that was possible was done for her, Jane Stanford was beyond the reach of medical help and at 11:40 she breathed her last.

Almost with her last breath, she gasped:

"This is a horrible death to die!" As soon as Mrs. Stanford had breathed her last, an examination was made of her room and upon a table at the bedside was found a vial containing carbonate of soda, which had been used as a corrective medicine.

It is not stated whether Mrs. Stanford had taken any of this last night, but mixed in with the soda there was found some trace of strychnine, so it was said last night.

Almost at once after Mrs. Stanford's death, Dr. Humphris started to notify High Sheriff Henry of the facts. There will be a coroner's inquest today and almost certainly a post mortem examination, necessitated by the very grave circumstances surrounding the case.

That Mrs. Stanford feared death by poisoning, was learned positively last night. It was because of this fear that she came to Honolulu. Mrs. Stanford said as much herself in the course of a conversation with Mrs. Henry E. Highton, an old and very intimate friend, within a few days of her arrival here.

"The reason I left San Francisco," Mrs. Stanford said to Mrs. Highton, "was because an attempt had been made upon my life. There was enough poison used then to kill twenty people, and an investigation of the facts is now being made in San Francisco."

"Mrs. Stanford seemed very greatly affected when she was telling me this," said Mrs. Highton last night, "and I sought to disabuse her mind of the idea,

been in Honolulu since February 21st. She was accompanied on her arrival here by her secretary, Miss Berner, and by a maid who is known as May. Both women were completely prostrated by the suddenness of last night's tragedy.

Mrs. Stanford had made numerous visits to Honolulu, and always enjoyed the sea trip and the island climate. She was here in April, 1902, when the students gave her a reception at the Moana. She visited the islands again in August, 1903, and in April, 1904, stopped on her way home from a tour of the Orient.

Deputy Sheriff Rawlins was at the Moana very shortly after midnight, and made a close examination of the room and the body of Mrs. Stanford. He also summoned a coroner's jury from among the guests of the hotel, and declared his purpose to have a post mortem held early today.

"I found nothing wrong in Mrs. Stanford's room," said the Deputy. "But there was a bottle of bicarbonate of soda, which Dr. Humphris took up town with him, and which I am told did the work. Mrs. Stanford took a dose of that medicine tonight upon retiring. The bottle was purchased in San Francisco, and some part of its contents had been taken out. But it had not been touched, before tonight, since leaving the coast. That bottle, I am told by people here at the hotel, had strychnine mixed with the soda. I can say nothing positively as to this until I see Dr. Humphris."

"I have questioned her secretary, Miss Berner, a middle aged woman who has been with Mrs. Stanford for twenty years, and the maid, May, a woman of about 20, but can get no coherent statement from either of them. They are completely prostrated by the shock."

Thus strangely, far from the graves of those two who have been to her all the world, Mrs. Stanford passes to her long rest. Long ago, in that fertile plain of Central New York, that has been prolific of great men and women, this woman who has been great in so many ways gave her life into the keeping of Leland Stanford. He was a country merchant, nothing more. No man then could have foreseen that he was to be one of the bold spirits who would bind together the opposite sides of a continent, that he would become great in affairs; that his administrative ability would guide a vast enterprise through fecklessness to the magnificence of a great success.

Yet all these things Leland Stanford, President of the Southern Pacific, Governor, Senator, multi-millionaire, founder of one of the great universities of America did. He was the best loved and the best hated man of his day.

And through it all, in his humble days and his great, when he was a storekeeper in Sacramento, and when he stood beside the nation's greatest men as their peer, this woman of his youthful love stood beside him, a fitting helpmeet. She kept her own house at Sacramento as fittingly as she presided in the palace that the wealth of later years reared for her on the crown of Nob Hill.

And, when the university that is the most lasting Stanford monument was founded, Leland Stanford associated his wife with himself as his full equal in its administration during his lifetime—and left the task for her completion after he died, with full faith that the trust would be faithfully carried out. For he had learned to know her through the years.

It is only recently that this task has been, in effect, completed. On November 9, 1901, Mrs. Stanford signed the two deeds that turned over to Leland Stanford, Jr., University bonds, realty and stocks of the estimated value of \$28,000,000. This transfer was accepted by the trustees of the university and, while it was distinctly understood that Mrs. Stanford did not thus relinquish her voice of control in the management of the institution, it was still plainly understood that it was a preparatory step to the end.

The original grant to the university embraced three great ranches at Palo Alto, Vina and Gridley. Following the panic of 1893 and the tying up of the estate in the probate court, Mrs. Stanford had a very severe struggle to keep the university on its feet. She said, once, of that trying time:

"I prayed to God for guidance every day, and I know He gave me light to guide my feet."

How much of her fortune Mrs. Stanford reserved for her own use at the time of making this record deed of gift is not known, but there can be small doubt that it was her intention, as it was known to be Senator Stanford's, to leave all her wealth to the university.

Leland Stanford, Jr., University was founded in 1887 by Senator and Mrs. Stanford as a memorial to their only son, who died in early youth. Its doors were opened in 1891, and it has risen to the rank of one of the greatest universities in the United States.

(From Thursday's Advertiser)

Strychnine was found in the bottle of bicarbonate of soda from which Mrs. Stanford took the dose which ended her life.

This fact was adduced last evening by Chemists Shorey and Duncan, and given unofficially by them to High Sheriff Henry. By 9 o'clock this morning the chemists hope to be able to give to the proper authorities the formal results of their examination of the contents of the stomach.

Thus far, two facts have become known from a medical examination: First, the autopsy revealed that three surgeons who performed that duty that Mrs. Stanford died from tetanus of the respiratory organs,

which could be caused by strychnine poisoning; and

Second, that strychnine has been found in the bicarbonate of soda in the vial from which Miss Berner extracted the fatal dose which Mrs. Stanford afterwards swallowed.

How did the strychnine come to be mixed in with the bicarbonate of soda?

This is the question which the police department is attempting to unravel. The police have the fact that Mrs. Stanford was almost poisoned in San Francisco shortly before her departure for Honolulu, and that strychnine had been found in the bottle of Poland mineral water from which she drank. On top of this fact comes the additional one that Mrs. Stanford was poisoned a second time, and that strychnine was the drug used. This also came from a bottle, (containing bicarbonate, however), which had been in the Stanford home in San Francisco prior to Mrs. Stanford's departure for Honolulu.

Two servants of Mrs. Stanford were discharged from her service after the first alleged attempt. A theory of High Sheriff Henry, is that the same persons may have placed strychnine in more than one container.

The police here have obtained every bottle of medicine and other medicines which Mrs. Stanford had. Deputy High Sheriff Rawlins has taken charge of the bicarbonate of soda bottle, the cancer capsules, some medicine used for nasal trouble, some homeopathic pills, and a partly filled bottle of Bartlett water some of which Mrs. Stanford drank the evening of her death. No other medicines or beverages were found. All these are to be examined by the chemists.

Thus far, all theories, all facts and all investigation lead to the single theory that Mrs. Stanford came to her death from poison criminally administered by some unknown person or persons.

HIGH SHERIFF'S STATEMENT. High Sheriff Henry, after making a visit to the laboratory in which the chemists are making the examination of the contents of Mrs. Stanford's stomach, made the following statement to the Advertiser:

"This is a most mysterious thing. It appears an attempt was made to poison Mrs. Stanford in California a short time before her departure for the Hawaiian Islands. She took a glass of Poland water, a beverage which I presume comes from Poland, Me., a place which I know very well. They hermetically seal those bottles. The cork of that bottle was drawn by one of the servants of the Stanford household in the lower part of the house and given to the maid, who took it to Mrs. Stanford. They made an analysis of the contents and found it contained strychnine. That maid was discharged."

"Now we have a bottle of bicarbonate of soda, containing it is said some strychnine. Does it seem possible that the same person that put the strychnine in the bottle of Poland water, also put strychnine in the bottle of bicarbonate of soda?"

"I would not want to state this as positive. However, I do not wish to be quoted as making a positive statement, and will not, until I have the result of the analysis in my hands. We have placed the glass she drank out of, the spoon with which the mixture was stirred and the bottle from which the fatal dose was taken, in the hands of the chemists."

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS. The remains of the late Mrs. Stan-

ford may be taken back to California on the S. S. China, leaving here March 9. They will be accompanied by Miss Berner. The burial will take place at Stanford University in the family mausoleum beside the bodies of Leland Stanford and son.

THE AUTOPSY.

The remains were removed yesterday morning to the Queen's Hospital where an autopsy was performed. The physicians performing this work were Drs. Wood, Day and Murray. The result of the autopsy will not be given out officially until the coroner's inquest takes place, but it is known that the findings were that Mrs. Stanford came to her death from tetanus of the respiratory organs, and this could have been caused by strychnine poisoning. The remains were yesterday embalmed.

THE SUICIDE THEORY.

The theory was advanced during the day that Mrs. Stanford may have committed suicide. The grounds for this belief are that for many years Mrs. Stanford has been a spiritualist and her mind has been impregnated with all manner of hallucinations. Although she talked rationally on some subjects, yet when the question of spiritualism was brought up, she showed an eager belief in it. She is known to have consulted mediums.

CORONER'S JURY.

Deputy High Sheriff Rawlins swore in the following coroner's jury early yesterday morning at the Moana Hotel: W. C. Peacock, J. H. Hertsche, T. A. Hays, H. Jeffrey, J. W. Harvey and E. S. Cunha. The jurors viewed the remains at 3:30 a. m. The jury was then dismissed subject to the call of the High Sheriff. The inquest may be held today, but at any rate it will not be held until the examination of the contents of the stomach has been made.

DR. HUMPHRIS'S POSITION.

Dr. Humphris, the physician called to attend the dying philanthropist, refused to give out any statement yesterday. He stated he would be a witness at the inquest, but would make no statement beforehand. He did not attend the autopsy.

When Dr. Humphris was first called in to attend Mrs. Stanford he secured the vial of soda and took it away with him. This is regarded from the standpoint of law as having weakened that important link of evidence, as the vial should have been allowed to come first into the hands of the police.

Dr. Humphris admitted yesterday however, that he had tasted the contents, but refused to say what he believed the stuff to be. It was bitter, that was all. He said the taste of bicarbonate was not bitter.

DR. JORDAN NOTIFIED.

Dr. Jordan, head of the Stanford University, was notified early yesterday morning by a cablegram sent by Dr. Humphris of the tragic end of Mrs. Stanford. A cablegram was received during the day from Dr. Jordan asking that Judge Stanley take charge of all matters affecting Mrs. Stanford.

MISS BERNER'S STORY.

Miss Berner, the companion and secretary of Mrs. Stanford, was questioned yesterday by High Sheriff Henry, but little was learned from her, or the maid, Miss Hunt, which threw any light on the tragedy. Miss Berner said that an attempt had been made in California to poison the deceased, and that was

one of the reasons she left California. She had drunk then from a bottle of Poland mineral water and became very ill, and it was alleged that strychnine had been found in the water. Miss Berner said Mrs. Stanford was conscious to the last moment of her life, and the latter had strongly asserted that she had been poisoned.

As to the movements of the entire party on Tuesday, Miss Berner said Mrs. Stanford, Miss Hunt, her elf and a driver went over the Pali to Koolau on a picnic trip. The lunch consisted of three kinds of sandwiches made of Graham bread, with tongue, Swiss cheese and lettuce between the bread layers. There were also hard-boiled eggs, pepper, salt, a fresh loaf of gingerbread, cold coffee, oranges, chocolate, candy, and sugar. The party had an enjoyable trip and returned to the Moana Hotel about 4 p. m. Mrs. Stanford ate heartily of the lunch, and on returning to town said she had had an enjoyable outing. She did not touch the eggs.

At 6:30 Mrs. Stanford, after dressing with care, went down to dinner, and about 8:30 returned to her room and retired. Mrs. Stanford asked for some soda. Miss Berner went to a trunk and procured it, but said she had no spoon. The maid, who was combing Mrs. Stanford's hair, gave her a spoon. The bicarbonate of soda was in a small glass bottle and was in bulk. She took out a half spoonful and laid it on the table. Mrs. Stanford asked Miss Berner to take some of it, but she replied she would take a canceret capsule, and one of these was also laid out for Mrs. Stanford. The latter did not take the soda at once, but said she would wait and take a drink of water with it. Miss Berner then retired and Miss Hunt left her mistress about 9 o'clock. Mrs. Stanford, it appears, fell asleep then, but later awoke and took the medicine. Later in the night Miss Berner was startled by hearing Mrs. Stanford cry out, "Bertha!" and then "May!" the name of the maid. Both sprang up and saw Mrs. Stanford leaning against the side of the door, which she had apparently opened.

"Oh, Bertha, get a doctor right away. I am suffering terribly here," was Mrs. Stanford's first statement, at the same time running her hand up and down her stomach. Miss Berner went at once for help, and a gentleman in the hotel went for a doctor. Miss Berner, fearing that Mrs. Stanford had been poisoned, gave her hot water to drink and did everything to get her to vomit. She could not vomit. Mrs. Stanford stated she had a convulsion which threw her out of bed. Her jaws finally became rigid, but she remained conscious to the end. Miss Berner cannot say where the bicarbonate of soda came from. She thought the bottle had been purchased several years ago at Adelaide, Australia. Mrs. Stanford had had the bottle a long time. She did not know whether Mrs. Stanford was in the habit of sending the bottle out to be refilled or not.

The capsules had been purchased from Wakelee's drug store at San Francisco just before leaving. The prescription was procured from Dr. Hillman. Miss Berner has been with Mrs. Stanford for nearly a score of years, but Miss Hunt was engaged only on February 9, although she had been in her service many years before.

(Continued on page 3.)



STANFORD MEMORIAL CHAPEL FROM WHICH THE REMAINS OF MRS. STANFORD WILL BE BURIED.